

REMARKS

The application contained claims 41-70 prior to this amendment. The Examiner rejected claims 41-46 and 49-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Hashimoto (U.S. Patent No. 4,768,085). The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 41-46 and 49-54 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claim 42 of co-pending application 11/113,438 in view of Hashimoto.

Applicant amends claims 41 and 49. Claims 41-70 remain in the application after entering this amendment. Applicant adds no new matter and requests reconsideration.

Interview Summary

Applicant thanks Examiner Henn for conducting an interview on January 11, 2012. During the interview, Applicant's attorney and Examiner Henn discussed some proposed claim amendments that the Examiner agreed would overcome the instant rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner allowed claims 57-70 and indicated claims 47, 48, 55, and 56 were allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 41-46 and 49-54 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claim 42 of co-pending application 11/113,438 in view of Hashimoto. Applicant respectfully delays the filing of any Terminal Disclaimer until claims 41-46 and 49-54 of the instant application are allowed, but will file any such Terminal Disclaimer, as appropriate, when claims 41-46 and 49-54 of the instant application are indicated as being allowable.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 41-46 and 49-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Hashimoto. As discussed above, Applicant and the Examiner agreed during the Examiner

interview that claims 41 and 49, as amended, overcame the instant rejection to Hashimoto. Applicant therefore requests the Examiner withdraw the instant rejections and allow claims 41-46 and 49-54.

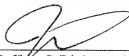
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims. Applicant encourages the Examiner to call if a conference would further prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,

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